



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SACCO/VANZETTI CASE

PART 9 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 61-126

SUBJECT Sacco/Vanzetti

FILE NUMBER 61-126

SECTION NUMBER 7

SERIALS 714 - 750

#132

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
P. O. Box 259,
423 Federal Building, Boston, Mass.

September 17, 1926.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/21/82 BY SP-6 JMC

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Attention Division No. 1.

In re: SACCO and VANZETTI

Enclosed you will find copy of the Boston Post and
copy of the Boston American for September 17, 1926 in re
above subjects.

These issues treat in comprehensive form, as in the
past few days, of the remarks of William H. Thompson, counsel
for the defense, in his efforts to secure a new trial for the
above named individuals.

At this writing the Government is making its argu-
ment through Assistant District Attorney Ranney for the County
of Norfolk, Mass.

I particularly invite your attention to the concluding
paragraphs of William H. Thompson's arguments which you will
find on page 18 of the Boston Post for Sept. 17th.

Yours very truly,

John A. Dowd
JOHN A. DOWD,

Special Agent in Charge.

SEP 21 1926 RECORDED

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

JAD:JMC
2 Enc.

*W.H. Thompson
D.C.
Henry
Laws*

61-126-714	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
SEP 21 1926 A.M.	
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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#157

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,
Boston, Mass.

Sept. 24, 1926.

2
1926
DIVISION #2

PERSONAL
and
CONFIDENTIAL.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF delet
DATE 7/12/80

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED
SEP 27 1926
DIVISION #2

Dear Sir:

In reply to your communication of the 16th instant, relative to a summary of the contents of the files of the Boston office in the Sacco-Vanzetti case, I desire to advise that such a summary is now in process and will be transmitted to you within the course of the next few days.

Very truly yours,

John A. Dowd
JOHN A. DOWD,
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD/a.

61-126

OCT 5 1926

RECORDED

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-8 BT/mc
ON 6/29/82

61-126-715	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
SEP 27 1926 A.M.	
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

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DATE 6/29/82 BY SA807JMC

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

61-726-716

July 20, 1926

Department of Justice:

We transmit to you
the acceptance
of which was unanimously
expressed in a public demon-
stration in Köln on Sunday
the 18th of June 1926
follows.

WORKMEN AND WORKING WOMEN
of the Rhine of whom 10,000
assembled in Köln, receive
with disgust and indignation
the knowledge of the death
sentence of Sarco and
Vanzetti. Demand that
American Govt. to denounce
the death sentence and
release both as guiltless
prisoners.

The Nation

FOUNDED 1865

SEPTEMBER 29, 1926

No. 3191

"Allemand!" with one breath and "Whiskey!" with the next—he was indisputably a product of Gaul. And now the men tennis stars—Lacoste, Cochet, Borotra, and Brugnon—three of whom mowed down all competitors and entered the semifinals of our national tennis tournament; one of whom, Borotra, downed Johnston and Vincent Richards on successive days and then lost the silver cup to his teammate, Lacoste, who had beaten Tilden's conqueror—what are they if not a product of that exhausted post-war France which with its low birth-rate, its diet of frogs and snails, and its wild, wild ways, was doomed forever? Here, as much as at Verdun, is the spirit of France—a France that takes sport with a laugh and wins.

WHAT IS ATTORNEY GENERAL SARGENT going to do about Sacco and Vanzetti? The completion of the hearing for a new trial confirms the story of the case presented by *The Nation* last week in which responsibility for the conviction of two probably innocent men was placed primarily upon the federal Department of Justice. William G. Thompson, counsel for the condemned men, submitted to Judge Webster Thayer affidavits from two former agents of the Department of Justice, Lawrence Letherman and Fred J. Weyand, that the machinery of the federal government had been used to convict Sacco and Vanzetti of murder although it was the opinion of those working on the case that the two Italians were not guilty of the crime charged. The real crime of the two men, in the eyes of the Department of Justice, was that they were aliens and radicals. Because they could not be deported "it was," Letherman swore, "the opinion of the Department of Justice agents here [in Boston] that a conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti for murder would be one way of disposing of them." Letherman added that "the letters and evidence on file in the Boston office would throw a great deal of light on the preparation of the case." A. Mitchell Palmer and not the present Attorney General was responsible for the policy of the Department of Justice in 1920, but unless Mr. Sargent does his best to undo the wrong he makes himself an accomplice in the effort to send two probably innocent men to the electric chair. As Mr. Thompson said: "The government that values secrets more than it values the lives of citizens has become tyranny."

MR. THOMPSON'S DEMAND for a new trial seems to us impregnable. Dudley P. Ranney, retained by the State of Massachusetts to oppose the application, made a weak defense of the conduct of the prosecution in the case, failing wholly to meet the great issues involved. He made no effort to controvert the charges in the affidavits of Weyand and Letherman. On the contrary he defended the conduct of the federal government and fell back on the lame argument that in revealing the facts Weyand and Letherman had been guilty of a breach of loyalty. Nor can one restrain impatience at finding Mr. Ranney relying on such technicalities in opposing a new trial as that the defense had been guilty of undue delay in making the motion. The fact that the case against Sacco and Vanzetti is now of no importance compared with the case against the courts of Mass.

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DATE 6/20/72 BY 4700/4700 The Nation

chusetts. Mr. Thompson did not exaggerate when he said:

Do you think that that part of the evidence which tells of the relations between the federal officials in Boston and the prosecution is of such a character that the honor of the Commonwealth can be supported if there is no new trial in this case? . . .

Think what is going to be said about it: The man who does not believe in private property in America is going to be killed whether he commits murder or not! These words are going to ring around the world.

growing independence
plainly mark out for

THE ROUT OF THE KLAN in Colorado surprised its most sanguine enemies. Senator Rice W. Means, supported by his fellow-Senator, L. C. Phipps, chairman of the Republican National Senatorial Committee, expected renomination; he lost by 16,000 votes. The Klan candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor was also badly defeated by former Governor O. H. Shoup; and the "radical millionaire," former Governor William E. Sweet, overwhelmed the candidate supported by the Klan and McAdoo forces for the Democratic nomination for Senator. Now, Colorado has been a fortress of the Klan; the Wizard's office was reckoned as important as the Governor's by those who sought official favors. Only in Indiana did its rule seem firmer. And Colorado has turned against it. This is good news, and it disturbs the regulars in both old parties. But Mr. Means's victor, Charles W. Waterman, has not, as counsel of President Coolidge's Oil Conservation Board, shown insurgent tendencies. Colorado is another evidence of the vigor of local revolts. The State was tired of Klan domination; but those who read a national meaning into the returns fool themselves. The only other primary surprises of last week were the signs of returning Dry strength in the East. Several New York Republican constituencies defeated Wadsworth Wets; and although John Phillips Hill, Maryland's historic Wet, swept Baltimore, the rural districts assured the renomination of Senator Weller, who is relatively Dry.

CANADA'S ELECTION swung the political pendulum toward the Liberals. The last two elections had been indecisive; even with Progressive support Mackenzie King's majority in the last Parliament was unstable, and when Governor Byng refused an election and called in the Conservative leader, Mr. Meighen could win a majority only against King but not for his own policies. In the new House the Liberals will have 119 seats, the Conservatives 91, the much-divided Progressives 19; Labor holds 8 seats, and the Alberta United Farmers their 11. This, then, marks a loss of 25 seats for the Conservatives, chiefly in Western Ontario. The Conservatives won only one prairie seat. But the phalanx of French-Canadian Liberals from Quebec are of very different stuff from the American-minded Liberals of the West. Quebec Liberals are protectionist; the Western farmers are as suspicious of tariffs as their American colleagues south of the frontier. The customs scandals which forced Mr. King's resignation in June faded during the campaign, as the oil scandals faded in our own Presidential campaign, largely because the Liberals were able to find smirches on the Conservative scutcheon to match their own stains. The constitutional issue played a larger role; the Liberals attacked the Governor General's intervention in domestic politics (see Mr. de Brisay's article in *The Nation* for September 8) and the Conservatives retorted by accusing the Liberals of being annexationists in disguise. The Liberal gains indicate that Canada will continue along the path of

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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✓ #127
EN:042

October 8, 1926.

Mr. J. A. Dowd,
P. O. Box 230,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your communication
of October 1st transmitting a summary of the Sacco-
Vanzetti file.

I am considerably concerned to note that
certain papers and documents have been taken from
this file. It is my desire that any papers or docu-
ments of any kind which may have been taken from the
Sacco-Vanzetti file be returned thereto forthwith.
So far as I am concerned, there has been no action
taken by this Bureau under my cognizance, jurisdiction,
or direction, which need in any way be hidden from
full and complete scrutiny.

Very truly yours,

Director.

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DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/SHC

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JUSTICE

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 20 1926 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Box 239, Boston, Mass.

#126

October 25, 1926.

**Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.**

**APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING**

SLIP(S) OF *de la*

DATE *5/12/1986*

Dear Sir:

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Attached hereto you will find certain sheets of the Boston Sunday Globe and the Boston Sunday Post for October 24th, 1926 in which you will note that a new trial is denied SACCO and VANZETTI by Judge Webster Thayer of the Massachusetts Superior Court, before whom motions were made for a new trial for SACCO and VANZETTI by William Thompson, attorney at law, of Boston, Mass.

You will find full comment as made by Judge Webster Thayer and I am pleased to say that he gives it as his opinion that no conspiracy existed between the Attorneys General of the United States and their subordinates and the State's Attorney for Norfolk County and his subordinates, for the purpose of bringing about the conviction of SACCO and VANZETTI on a murder charge.

Very truly yours,

John A. Dowd

JOHN A. DOWD

Special Agent in Charge.

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

JAD:MFD

RECORDED

OCT 27 1926

61-126

DECLASSIFIED BY *SP-905/uk*
ON *2/29/82*

61-126-720	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
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WORSE MURDERER

HINTS SARGENT FREED PRISONER WANTED IN FIGHT TO SAVE SACCO

Attorney William G. Thompson declared today in Superior Court at Dedham that Joe Merelli, one of the gang accused by the Sacco-Vanzetti defense in the motion for a new trial, was recently freed on parole by the United States government in spite of the fact that the Department of Justice knew of his importance in the present proceedings.

Continuing his argument, Thompson said that after Niles Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were hanged nearly six years ago of the murder of a Boston police officer, the government arrested the gangster Joe Merelli, who was known to be a close friend of Sacco and Vanzetti. Merelli was given a \$50,000 bond and released from prison at Leavenworth, Kan., after serving a term of three years.

HINTS SARGENT FREED PRISONER WANTED IN FIGHT TO SAVE SACCO

Attorney William G. Thompson declared today in Superior Court at Dedham that Joe Morelli, one of the gang accused by the Sacco-Vanzetti defense in the motion for a new trial, was recently freed on parole by the United States government in spite of the fact that the Department of Justice knew of his importance in the present proceedings.

Continuing his long argument for a new trial for Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, convicted nearly six years ago of the murder of a police officer, Thompson today asserted the value of Morelli as a witness in the case. Morelli was given his parole by the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., on August 1, 1932, after serving a term of 18 months for a conviction of burglary in 1930.

WOULD GIVE UP CASE

Rumors took up the story that Fred Weyand and Lawrence Leathers, at one point part of the military establishment, said that all that they officially revealed was that the name of S. G. and Vincent was in the department of justice files in 1926.

WHAT WAS ILLEGAL?

"These questions have been decided in favor of the commonwealth by the supreme judicial court and are closed from future consideration forever."

Ramsey came to the defense of U. S. Attorney, Sargent. After describing the latter Attorney, Thompson wrote Attorney Sargent, Ramsey said he had found that very often the mention of letters and other matters was not always true. He referred to the letter from Thompson to Sargent in 1916 as the defense attorney asked that the files of the department of justice be opened to him.

SECRET FILE

[illegible]

Madellos is under sentence of death for slaying a Wrentham butcher and has made a confession which, if true, exonerates Sacco and Vanzetti of the crime for which they were convicted, the slaying of postmaster in South Braintree on April 15, 1920.

CALLS MORELLI COWARD

Joe Morelli, one of the Providence gang now accused of the Sacramento slaying, was described by the assistant district attorney as a coward and who could not have committed the most brutal, wicked and despicable murder ever committed in the city.

DEFENDS EVIDENCE SWAP

"Convinced that there was an underlying conspiracy concerning the evidence, I felt it my duty to act." Now, if Attorney Thompson proved that these two items of the tape fit together and that the evidence was presented in violation of Search and Seizure laws, he said that would be a very different matter and we would go into court and cry out, 'stop these people from doing this!'

"If there was no conspiracy, the change of evidence is a counter to the American people, to all the States, and to the United States Government. The defense has a right to know the truth," Mr. Rosen said.

CHILD - NARRATIONS LIST

CHARGES SLEUTHS ARE READY TO 'SWEAR AWAY LIVES' OF DEFENDANTS

hurling a charge that former United States Department of Justice agents were willing to swear away the lives of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, whom they knew to be innocent, in order to satisfy a chief who wanted to be President of the United States, Attorney William G. Thompson today launched a spectacular closing argument in his fight for a new trial for the two convicted murderers.

Marshall, a former federal agent, and others, who were in the interest of the defense, were called to the stand by Thompson. Marshall, who was the chief of the federal bureau of investigation, was called to the stand by Thompson. Marshall, who was the chief of the federal bureau of investigation, was called to the stand by Thompson. Marshall, who was the chief of the federal bureau of investigation, was called to the stand by Thompson.

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OFFER 61 AFFIDAVITS IN BATTLE TO SAVE SACCO AND VANZETTI

Demand that the files of the United States Department of Justice be laid bare to show the activities of the Federal government in connection with the conviction of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti for the South Braintree murder, was made on Attorney General Sargent today by Attorney William G. Thompson, counsel for the two men.

This demand was made as a result of disclosures made in affidavits by former Department of Justice chiefs in Boston and read at the hearing on a new trial motion for Sacco and Vanzetti in Superior Court at Dedham today.

The former Federal agents, who cooperated with Norfolk County authorities in building the case against the pair six years ago, declared in their statements that they and their fellow United States investigators believed Sacco and Vanzetti innocent.

Continued on Page 2, Column 1.

SACCO MOVE TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT

U. S. Agents' Stories Warrant New Trial, Defense Insists

Asst. Dist. Atty. Tonley P. Parker concluded his argument today at noon after talking three hours. Atty. William G. Thompson made a short rebuttal argument of 15 or 12 minutes. He declared that the uncontradicted affidavits of Weyand and Leatherman, former United States agents, were in and of themselves sufficient to warrant a new trial.

The defense attorney insisted that it would be better if Sacco and Vanzetti, even though guilty, were allowed to have their freedom than to have the spectacle remain of a government secreting and suppressing evidence tending to show the innocence of these two men.

He continually returned to what he termed "co-ordination between the Federal department of justice and Dist. Atty. Katzmann," claiming the evidence in the affidavit of Weyand and Leatherman was not contradicted in any way. He said:

"Evidence bearing on this matter has been concealed by the United States government."

BECOMES TYRANNY

In his partial reference to the Weyand and Leatherman affidavits, Atty. Thompson said:

"I'll say to you that a government which hides its secrets from the public is a tyranny. It is a tyranny even if it is a tyranny of a single person. I suggest that Weyand and Leatherman have done nothing wrong. They have only followed the orders of a government which would not let them know what they were doing. They have only followed the orders of a government which would not let them know what they were doing."

Boston, Mass., Traveler

Boston, Mass., Traveler

Sept 17 1936

At the time she was in
the water.
When the train left Gila-Nor was
already extremely wet and water
conditions were favorable. As a result
in the evening she was going along
nine miles out from Gila-Nor and head-
ing straight for South Fortifying on the
Klamath River.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Dudley F. Ranney concluded his arguments today at noon after talking three hours. Atty. William J. Thompson made a short rebuttal argument of 10 or 15 minutes. He declared that the uncontradicted affidavit of Weyand and Leatherman, former United States agents, were in and of themselves sufficient to warrant a new trial.

The defense attorney insisted that it would be better if Sacco and Vanzetti, even though guilty, were allowed to have their freedom than to have the spectacle remain of a government sequestering and suppressing evidence tending to show the innocence of those two men.

He continually returned to what he termed "co-operation between the federal department of justice and district attorneys," claiming the evidence in the affidavit of Weyand and Weatherman was not contradicted in any way.

"Evidence bearing on this matter has been concealed by the United States government."

BECOMES TYRANNY

In his rebuttal, referring to the Wey-
and and Leatherman affidavits, Attorney
Thompson declared:

Thompson declared:
"I'll say to you that a government
which values its secrets more than the
lives of two men has become a tyranny.
In it, it is called a democracy.
I feel any suggestion that we and
our friends have done anything wrong
they have called attention to a condi-
tion of affairs which we have already
known exists, but now we find that
our condition appears to have been
made it a crime."

Used as Tool by U.S. Officials, Sacco Counsel Declares

Judge Webster Thayer, who for five years sat on a court bench while legal battles between attorneys for Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti and district attorneys of Norfolk county went on, was used "as a tool of the federal officials," according to Atty. William G. Thompson, senior defense counsel, who opened his arguments for a new trial for the convicted men in Dedham court today.

IMPOSED UPON

Atty. Thompson said there was no question but that the court was grossly imposed upon by former Dist. Atty. Frederick Katzman. That individual, Thompson said, was playing "his part in a bargain with United States officials when he examined Sacco on radicalism." This agreement was "in order to get evidence against Sacco and his radical associates," and Thompson questioned whether had the court known the circumstances "he would have permitted himself to be a tool of the federal officials."

Atty. Thompson in his preliminary speech to the court before he began his arguments, promised that he would attack former Dist. Atty. Katzman, who prepared and prosecuted the case against Sacco and Vanzetti. He referred to the activities of the United States department of justice agents who co-operated with Katzman.

During his argument, Atty. Thompson asked, "Who is the worse murderer, the man who shoots and takes the consequences and does not try to throw them on anyone else, or the man who draws \$4 a day from his government and tries to convict men of murder whom he knows to be innocent in order to satisfy his chief, who wants to be nominated President of the United States and make some money. One is safe. The other is dangerous."

To whom Thompson referred in this paragraph was not brought out. The "chief" mentioned, however, is thought to be a former attorney-general of the United States.

Atty. Thompson referred to the Weyland & Leatherman affidavits, in one of which was contained the statement that it would be a good thing to get Sacco and Vanzetti "out of the way."

There can be no question on the disclosures now made that this court was grossly imposed upon in the request for the introduction of evidence and requests to rule. I will speak of the cross-examination of Sacco. Mr. Katzmann asked your honor to admit questions on Sacco's radicalism on the ground that he wished to test Sacco's sincerity. He was paying his part of a bargain with United States officials for the purpose of getting evidence for them to use against Sacco and his radical associates. Mr. Katzmann had known that would have permitted himself to be used as a tool of the federal officials.

TOO LATE FOR FILES

Thompson said that the missing papers contained information to the effect that these federal officials were now willing to open their files of the Sacco-Vanzetti case to the court. He said it is too late for these officials to come forward with explanations and excuses for not having done so before when he made the request of the court to do so to the United States attorney general.

Throughout his argument Atty. Thompson kept referring to the federal secret service men who figured in the case, naming them as West, Weiss, Shaughnessy and one other and he said these men had been employed by the government for Sacco's children to make the connection, and he said, "I don't see how for them, except West and Weiss and Shaughnessy and some other."

WORSE MURDERER

"Who is the worse murderer, the man who shoots and takes the consequences and does not try to throw them on anyone else, or the man who draws eight dollars a day from his government and tries to convict men of murder whom he knows to be innocent in order to satisfy his chief who wants to be nominated President of the United States and make some money on the side? One is safe. The other is dangerous."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-9875/AC

CLIPPINGS

Boston, Mass., American
Sept. 26, 1926

HINTS SARGENT FREED PRISONER WANTED IN FIGHT TO SAVE SACCO

Attorney William G. Thompson declared today in Superior Court at Dedham that Joe Morelli, one of the gang accused by the Sacco-Vanzetti defense in the Motion for a new trial, was recently freed on parole by the United States government in spite of the fact that the Department of Justice knew of his importance in the present proceedings.

Continuing his argument for a new trial for Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, convicted last year for the murder of a South Braintree haymaster, Thompson ascribed the guilt to the Morelli gang and declared that Joe Morelli has since his freedom from the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., after serving half of a 12-year sentence.

Continued on Page 2, Column 1.

(SEE REVERSE SIDE- Top)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/21/02 BY SP-ROTS/mk

Boston, Mass., American
Sept. 15, 1926

Hurling a charge that former United States Department of Justice agents were willing to swear about the lives of Joseph Pappo and Bartolomeo Vanzetti whom they knew to be innocent in order to satisfy a chief who wanted to be President in the United States. Attorney William L. Ferguson today launched a spectacular double indictment in his call for a new trial for the two embattled immigrants.

Marshallled into a masterful speech. His words rang through the DePaulian burlapths as he addressed Judge Webster Thayer in Superior Court and pitilessly assailed the Department of Justice, former District Attorney Fred Kaishmann of Norfolk County.

Referring to Celestine Madroes
submitted to die in the electric chair
for another slaying, and who was
continued on Page 2, Column 1.

Accepted to exonerate Boone and
Spawett by confining himself to
participation in the killing and obser-
ver at a South Brainerd. paymaster.
Attorney Thompson said.

"This man, convicted of murder, has more heart than the government's agents who will shoot him. I know the difference. I know the difference between a man who wanted to be a president,"

[illegible]

The Department of Justice has been looking for much information in this way," he said, and he related the above statements of former Federal agents who admitted views that will give a further charge to the case against the above mentioned group. These men report the steadily increasing number of foreigners.

He told how the trial came at
time of the drive against the
in the United States. Under
the leadership of a former head of
the Department of Justice, shortly
after the World War

Spectators in a crowded courtroom, with a sprinkling of plain clothes guards among them, sat in rapt attention to the lawyer's argument throughout the trial, where the Waco-Kenneth case has caused demonstrations and bombings, outbreaks of rioting and other wild activities by the mob of the town.

This court was imposed upon, Your Honor, by former District Attorney Katemann," he shouted. Over the objections of defense lawyers, in cross-examination of Sacco, Katemann told Your Honor he wanted the cross-examination to go on to show that the defendants had criminal tendencies.

This was not his real reason. For Honor, as you know. He was leading into the fact that these men had been indicted by the grand jury of the District of Columbia on charges of conspiracy to defraud the United States. He had mentioned the Federal

Mr. Ramsey, the chief assistant district attorney here, has read a long deposition from Mr. Katz over the telephone. Part of the deposition is not very clear, but what is outlined is that, Katz's own statements are very significant.

in an affidavit to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. And Weyand had admitted that they ought to be "clean and honest" after dropping the murder charge or some other charge so they could be "discharged".

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/hw

CLIPPINGS

Boston, Mass., American

Sept. 13, 1926.

OFFER 61 AFFIDAVITS IN BATTLE TO SAVE SACCO AND VANZETTI

Demand that the files of the United States Department of Justice be laid bare to show the activities of the Federal government in connection with the conviction of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti for the South Braintree murder was made on Attorney General Sargentoday by Attorney William G. Thompson, counsel for the two men.

This demand was made as a result of disclosures made in affidavits by former Department of Justice chiefs in Boston and read at the hearing on a new trial motion for Sacco and Vanzetti in Superior Court at Dedham today.

The former Federal agents, who co-operated with Norfolk County authorities in building the case against the pair six years ago, declared in their statements that they and their fellow United States investigators believed Sacco and Vanzetti innocent.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/24/82 BY SP-015/m

Boston, Mass. American-Sept. 17, 1926

Response of Asst. Dis
trict Atty. Ranney of
Plymouth County

WOULD GIVE UP CASE

Ranney took up the affidavits of Fred Grand and Lawrence Leatherman, department of justice agents, and said that all that these affidavits revealed is that the names of Sacco and Vanzetti were in the department of justice files 1930.

WHAT WAS ILLEGAL?

He next took up Atty. Thompson's
pleaement concerning Katsman, who

"Your honor told of carefully watching the conduct of Kaituma and Williams for nearly seven weeks, and you stated that you never observed anything on their part that was not consistent with the highest standard of professional conduct. Was there anything dishonorable in Mr. Kaituma's act of information from the department of justice? No, my dear, no, none. And that the complete change of the course has been set."

"It may seem strange," he said, "that after coming to Mr. West in Boston to answer, the attorney-general asked the local agent to find out what Atty. Thompson wanted. Mr. West called up Mr. Thompson and asked him what he wanted, to which Mr. Thompson answered, 'I want everything.' Mr. Thompson was told that they (meaning the local department of justice office) could not go beyond their instructions. These officials did all they could. Mr. Thompson himself cut off that avenue of information."

The prosecutor defended the keeping of secret files, saying that the government officials had to keep secret files just as he himself would refuse to give information contained in the secret files to the Norfolk county prosecutor's office.

Atty. Thompson—Your honor, there was no affidavit to that effect submitted."

Judge Thayer—This case will be decided on the facts, and not by the statements of counsel. There are no questions in this argument that base on evidence.

EVIDENCE ONLY

Atty. Thompson—1. What it noted that
only makes any difference with respect
to evidence. 2. The
city. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833

Madison in 1920 for slaying a Worcester cashier and his wife a Boston woman, if true, glorified him. Wauwatt of the crime for which he was executed, the slaying of a daymaker in South Boston.

April 15, 1920

He demanded there was no
doubt in a working relation
one citizen between the
government and the state
change evidence at the time
total

Joe Morini, one of the three gang law accused in the primitive murder of the slain civil defense, was described by assistant district attorney as a "hard who could not have committed the most brutal, wicked and perate murder ever committed in Massachusetts."

Morell, he said, has made a statement describing his activities on the day of the crime and going to government records at that time carrying a very heavy suitcase from the Pittsburgh freight in and around Pittsburgh.

The charge that there was a conspiracy between the United States and Massachusetts, says the **Harvard Alumni**, "is a charge which the Department of Justice is unable to gather evidence to sustain. It is a charge which is not even a remotely probable arrangement with former District Attorney Keenan, the only evidence the latter could offer during the trial he would have been the Federal Government."

"Concede that there was an unauthorized standing concerning the evidence, and that it is illegal now? Now, if that is so, Thompson proved that laws of the arms of the law got together to fabricate evidence and protect the activities of Sabon and Yankovich, a jury that would be a very difficult matter, and we would be a court, and say that. Stop these observations."

"But there was no conspiracy change of allegiance is a courtesy Massachusetts stands to all our States and to the United States government. The defense would not have you believe that Mr. Kaituma said falsehoods to your honor and me, but that is not he, and your honor has obviously made a finding of fact that the handling of the case was strictly honorable."

[illegible]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/29/92 BY SP-8 BJC/MC

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

October 21, 1926.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

I am attaching hereto, for your general information, a communication received from Special Agent in Charge Dowd, dated October 1, 1926, which has reference to the Sacco-Vanzetti case.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

Encl.

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DATE 6/29/82 BY SP8BRS/h

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P.O.Box 239, Boston, Mass.

November 1, 1926.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: SACCO & VANZETTI

Dear Sir:

Adverting to all past correspondence exchanged between us and referring in particular to your letter of October 6th, 1926 in which you write that you are in receipt of a communication from me, under date of October 1st, in which I transmitted a summary of the SACCO-VANZETTI file and in relation to it you make known that you are considerably concerned to note that certain papers and documents have been taken from this file and in which you expressed it as your desire that any papers or documents of any kind which may have been taken from the SACCO-VANZETTI file should be returned thereto forthwith, let me say that not any documents, papers, etc., taken from the SACCO-VANZETTI file as carried in this office were ever taken in the sense of a permanent removal and were replaced in the file immediately after having served their purpose and are at present in the file occupying the position which they occupied prior to their removal.

Consideration of past correspondence exchanged between us clearly indicates that it was necessary to remove certain papers from the SACCO-VANZETTI file for the purpose of study and examination in order that the summary of the file, which you desired, should be prepared and at no time were they taken from the file with the intention of separating them from the file or for the purpose of being lodged elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

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DATE 6/21/82 BY SP-10/10/82

JAD:NED

JOHN A. DOWD
Special Agent in Charge.

NOV 8 1926

61-126-722	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 2 1926 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. One	FILE
Div. Two	

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P.O.Box 239
Boston, Mass.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF deless
DATE 7/12/82

November 8, 1926.

RECORDED

NOV 11 1926

~~PERSONAL~~ and
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

61-126-723	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 30 1926 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Dr. V. L. Two	FILE

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear sir:

Re: Sacco-Vanzetti Matter

In confirmation of my telephone conversation with Mr. Harold Nathan this morning concerning the above entitled matter I wish to say that Harold Williams, U.S. Attorney at Boston, Mass., called me into conference this morning where I met Jay R. Benton, Attorney General for the State of Massachusetts.

During this conference it was made known that Hon. Alvin T. Fuller, Governor of Massachusetts departed from New York City for Paris, France on Nov. 6, 1926. At the time of his departure he was met by a delegation of foreign persons representing forty foreign papers who petitioned him to remove Webster Thayer, Judge of the Superior Court of Massachusetts because of his refusal to grant the motion for a new trial sought by counsel for these men recently claiming an abuse of judicial discretion etc. It also appears that Governor Fuller does not have the protection of any body guard at any time and on his trip to France he is without any form of personal protection.

Fearing that demonstrations may take place in France against the Governor, Mr. Benton, the Attorney General, called upon Mr. Williams to learn if protection could not be secured for Governor Fuller through the Government of the United States. Mr. Williams put the question to me whereupon I made known to him that if protection was afforded the Governor it would no doubt be furnished by the Department of State at Washington but Mr. Williams asked me if I would telephone to you feeling that our Bureau and the Attorney General of the United States were the proper conduits through which the request of the Attorney General of Massachusetts should be made.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-8 BTJ/AC
ON 6/29/82

Accordingly I telephoned for you and in your absence spoke with Mr. Nathan explaining to him what took place at the conference as well as the desire of Mr. Williams that I take the matter up with you. I suggested that Mr. Nathan telephone the results of any action at Washington to Mr. Williams.

I am writing you at once so that you will know how the matter arose and the interest which the Attorney General for Massachusetts has in the matter. Mr. Benton asked that this matter be treated as confidential.

Very truly yours,



JOHN A. DOWD

Special Agent in Charge.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF advice
DATE 5/17/82

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NH:GAS

61-126-723

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

NOV 11 1926

RECORDED & INDEXED

November 9, 1926.

61-126

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 10 1926 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

Mr. J. A. Dowd,

P. O. Box 229,

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Receipt is acknowledged of your communication of November 8th expressing the desire of United States Attorney Williams and Mr. Jay A. Benton, Attorney General for the State of Massachusetts, that the State Department be advised of possible demonstrations in Paris or elsewhere against the Honorable Alvin T. Fuller, Governor of Massachusetts.

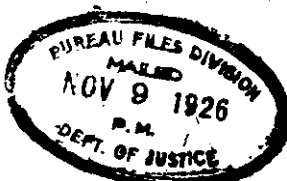
In reply I beg to state that steps were taken to immediately communicate the information in question to the proper officials of the State Department, who are now advised by the State Department that the Embassy at Paris has been notified of the possibilities involved in order that steps might be taken to afford proper protection to the Governor of Massachusetts by the French police authorities.

I might suggest that it would be well for the State of Massachusetts authorities to communicate to the State Department the full and detailed itinerary of the Governor of Massachusetts while in Europe in order that steps further steps for his protection might be taken as may be deemed necessary or advisable.

Very truly yours,

Director.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-9 BTJ/mc
ON 1/29/82



APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Adrian
DATE 7/12/80

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RM:GAS

~~Personal and~~
~~Confidential~~

November 9, 1926.

NOV 11 1926 61-126-723

RECORDED

Mr. Alexander C. Kirk,

Department of State,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kirk:

Confirming telephonic conversations relative to the matter of possible protection to be afforded Governor Alvin T. Fuller, of Massachusetts, on his trip to the Continent, I am transmitting attached hereto a communication received from the Agent in Charge of the Bureau's Boston office, which I believe is self-explanatory.

It is my desire, of course, to keep you fully informed as to any developments which may arise in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. 00917.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP9 BTJ/mc
ON 6/29/92



12

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P.O.Box 239
Boston Mass.

November, 9, 1926.

61-126

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear sir:

Re: Sacco- Vanzetti Matter

Referring to telephone conversation of this morning which Mr. Harold Nathan had with me permit me to say I have made known to the Honorable Jay R. Benton, Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that the Department of State has taken up with the American Ambassador at Paris, France the question of affording information to Alvan T. Fuller, Governor of Massachusetts during the period of his stay in France. I have imparted this information, as well, to Hon. Harold Williams, U.S. Attorney at Boston, Mass.

Very truly yours,

John A. Dowd
John A. Dowd.
Special Agent in Charge.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/27/82 BY SP-8 BJS/mc

NOV 12 1926

RECORDED

61-126-724	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 11 1926 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. Two	FILE

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,
Boston, Mass.

Nov. 11, 1926.

Personal
and
Confidential.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP
DATE 5/12/82

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

61-126

Dear Sir:

Attention No.1.

Adverting to all past correspondence between us concerning the desire of Hon. Harold P. Williams, U. S. Attorney, Boston, Mass, and Hon. Jay R. Benton, Attorney-General for the State of Massachusetts, that the welfare of Hon. Alvan T. Fuller, Governor of Massachusetts, while in France, be looked after, and referring particularly to your letter of November 9th, 1926, in which you suggest that it would be well for the State of Massachusetts authorities to communicate to the State Department the full and detailed itinerary of the Governor of Massachusetts while in Europe - I wish to state that this suggestion was conveyed to Hon. Jay R. Benton, who stated that Governor Fuller intended to remain in Paris for approximately ten days or two weeks, and did not intend to proceed elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mg

JAD/d.

NOV 15 1926

RECORDED

John A. Dowd
JOHN A. DOWD,
Special Agent in Charge.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-8 BTJ/mg
ON 6/29/82

61-126-725	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 12 1926 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. Two	FILE

OFFICE OF
THE UNDERSECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 30, 1926.

61-126

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am sending you herewith for your information copies of two despatches from the American Legation at Oslo, dated November 1st and 3rd, concerning the proposed boycott of American goods on the part of the Oslo Red Aid, in connection with the Sacco and Vanzetti case.

Very truly yours,

A. R. H.

over

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,
Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures.
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RECORDED & INDEXED

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DEC 10 1926

61-126-729	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
DEC 2 1926	
DIV. Two	

No. 894.

Dated November 3, 1926.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

With reference to my despatch No. 891 of November 3, 1926, regarding the Norwegian communists' attitude toward the Sacco and Vanzetti case, I have the honor to transmit a resolution from the International Red Aid in this matter.

While it has ^{not} been thought necessary to forward the petitions, threats, and resolutions addressed to this Legation by communists from time to time, it is believed that the threat

of

of boycott, made for the first time in the following resolution, may be of interest to the Department:

Translation

"To the American Legation:

Oslo, November 1, 1926.

"The Oslo Red Aid (of the ~~International~~ Red aid) referring to its earlier protest, expresses its strongest denunciation of the outrageous treatment accorded Sacco and Vanzetti by the Government of the United States. Sacco and Vanzetti have convinced the whole civilized world of their innocence since their defenders submitted the explanation of the murderer Maduros, who confesses to have committed the murder for which Sacco and Vanzetti have been sentenced. We have no sympathy for the murderer Maduros, but we must protest against his execution before the Sacco and Vanzetti case has been absolutely cleared up. Here in Norway we are convinced that the two Italian workers are innocent, and therefore we beg you to convey to your government our protest without abridgment. You are also requested to state that the Red Aid will to the best of its ability cause the boycott of American goods in case the murder of these two workers really takes place.

For the Oslo Red Aid.

(Signed) Even ~~X~~sen.

President pro tempore."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Laurits S. Swenson.

No. 891.

Oslo, November 1, 1926.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Referring to the Department's circular telegrams of September 8, 2 P. M., and October 24, 10 A. M., 1926, with regard to the Sacco and Vanzetti case, I have the honor to report that the Norwegian secret service has been informally advised of the course of the trial and requested to keep any dangerous characters under surveillance. No other steps have been deemed necessary at the present time and no

violence

violence is expected. In this connection the following editorial appeared in NORGES KOMMUNISTBLAD on the twenty-ninth instant:

Translation.

"The promise of the International Red Aid to afford assistance to the Italian Comrades, Sacco and Vanzetti, must be answered by the Norwegian workers with a quickly organized movement of protest against the death penalty which, in the course of a few days, will be imposed on the two workers. As is known, the courts in America have refused to re-open the case against these two, who, since 1920 have sat in prison and since 1921 have had a death sentence hanging over them for a robbery murder in which, as has been proved by countless documents and witnesses, the Italian anarchists never took part.

"The real reason for the imprisonment of Sacco and Vanzetti is that they are such dauntless spokesmen for the working classes' case. They are dangerous to bourgeois society, therefore they were imprisoned, therefore their lives shall be snuffed out in the electric chair.

"The world proletariat's vigorous movement of protest has hitherto kept the executioner from using the 'chair' on the two comrades, but now it looks as if this outrageous sentence will be carried out after all.

"But these two devoted fighters in the class struggle can still be saved. The international proletarian can save them. And you can be sure that Sacco and Vanzetti expect and hope to be rescued. They have absolute confidence in the laboring classes' solidarity. 'And it can give us back freedom and life', wrote Vanzetti.

"Will the comrades be disappointed in their hope? No, never. We feel certain that the international proletarian together with the best part of the bourgeois intellectuals will march forth one of these days to save Sacco and Vanzetti from the electric chair.

"We must also participate here in Norway. Everywhere in the workshop, in the Union, in the party meeting and mass gatherings, everywhere we must not in action a great movement of protest against the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. Draft protest resolutions and let them pour into the American Legation. The Norwegian workers never before lagged in their duty to class solidarity, and now over they will not now.

"In the American prison the workers are sitting and waiting. Are we going to die in the electric chair or will our brothers throughout the world fetch us back to the struggle outside? Let us join the comrades in every land and cry to them 'Sacco and Vanzetti! You shall not die! We will save you from the electric chair.'

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Laurits S. Swenson.

XXXXXX
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

35 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review. ~~and direct response to you.~~

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_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

61-126- 726, 727, 728, ~~729~~, 730, 731, 732, ~~733~~

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95
OFFICE OF
THE UNDERSECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 28, 1926.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1AG/aa
ON 4/26/90
per STATE ex. dtd. 2/22/90
(293,569)

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am sending you herewith for your information
a copy of despatch No. 54 dated November 21, which
has been received from the American Legation at
Copenhagen regarding a public meeting relating
to the Sacco and Vanzetti case.

Very truly yours,

A. Lusk

61-126

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,
Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.
311.6521Sal/362

Mr. A. H. F.
Mr. G. E. R.
Mr. R. S. R.

JAN 3 1927

738
61-126-974
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 29 1926
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Div. Two

Despatch No. 54

Copenhagen, November 21, 1926.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A true copy of
the original
enclosed.
GH

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1AG/jac
ON 4/26/90
per STATE ltr. dtd. 2/22/90
(293,569)

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 51 of the 18th instant,
in which it was mentioned that a public meeting was to be
held here on that date to protest against the conviction of
the Italian communists Sacco and Vanzetti in the United States,
I have the honor to report that the meeting took place, as
previously announced, in a public hall known as the "Axel-
borg", and that it was said to have been attended by some

eight

APR 18 1972
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7443

eight hundred people. The principal speaker at this meeting was Mrs. Karin Michaelis, the wife of one of Denmark's most noted authors and herself a writer and speaker of considerable local repute, who took as the title of her address "American Judicial Murders." Another speaker was Mr. Ernst Kober, who spoke on the subject of Fascist terrorism in Italy.

All the principal local newspapers published accounts of the meeting on the following day, of which the fullest appeared in the POLITISKE (Radical Liberal) under the title "The Protest Meeting Against 'Free America'". Shorter accounts appeared in the BERLINGSCHE TILBÆR (Conservative), the NATIONALTILBÆR (Conservative) and the SOCIAL DEMOKRATISKE (Social Democrat), the article in the last-mentioned being entitled "The Giant Protest Meeting Against Fascist Terrorism and American Corruption." It is interesting to note that the BERLINGSCHE TILBÆR expressed its belief that the large attendance at the meeting was due less to interest in the subject of Mrs. Michaelis's address than to the public desire to hear her speak. A translation of an extract from Mrs. Michaelis's address, as published in the POLITISKE of November 19th, is enclosed herewith, which will serve to show the tenor of her remarks as well as her apparent ignorance, or disregard, of the facts in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. According to newspaper reports, however, her specious appeal was greeted with much applause and a resolution was forthwith unanimously adopted which it was proposed to deliver by a deputation to the Legation.

On the morning of the 19th, an inquiry, apparently on the part of the Chaff Society, was made by telephone to

the

the Legation as to when the American Minister could be seen, to which the Clerk of the Legation replied that the Minister was absent. Later in the day an individual representing the Society called and delivered to the Clerk of the Legation a copy of the resolution adopted at the meeting on the previous evening. A translation of the resolution, which was addressed to the Legation and signed by a physician named Lennbach on behalf of the Society, is enclosed herewith. It will be observed that the resolution, after mentioning that it had been adopted at the meeting held under the auspices of the CLINT Society, protests not only against the judgment in the Sacco-Vanzetti case but against that in the case of Mooney and Billings, as well as against the treatment of "the scores of other innocent victims of corruption in the judicial system of the United States which these cases have disclosed." It states that until the Sacco-Vanzetti case is revised and Mooney and Billings are released, the Society will "not cease to stigmatize these judicial murders and to bring them to the knowledge of the Danish public in all their details," and concludes that "the attitude of the American Government in these matters will thus be decisive for our estimation of the United States as a country of liberty or as a country of legal corruption."

The Legation has not, of course, acknowledged the receipt of this communication, but I have again mentioned the matter to the Director of the Foreign Office, Count Leventlov, and have shown him the copy of the resolution delivered at the Legation. He is of the opinion that it is unlikely that the matter will cause any further public agitation here. This opinion is shared by Mr. Axel Gerfalk,

the

#79
the local representative of the Associated Press of America, who tells me he has forwarded a short account of the meeting to the Press but that he does not believe that the Danish public can be induced to interest itself further in such a matter. The ~~BERLINER ZEITUNG~~ of the 20th instant contained a short editorial article ridiculing the resolution adopted at the CLARE meeting. It pointed out that while the information furnished by Mrs. Michaelis was of a most superficial character, "the nine hundred members nevertheless proceeded to adopt a resolution to the effect that they would not cease to dignify the alleged judicial murders and disseminate 'all details', and that the subsequent attitude of the American Government would be decisive for their opinion of the United States." The article concludes with the following: "When the American Minister receives the resolution, it will not be ourselves only who say ugh!..... the whole of America will tremble."

No further comments have appeared in the local press on this subject. I have been able to get very little information about the CLARE Society, but Count Reventlow tells me that he understands that its branch in Denmark is rather in the nature of literary and debating society than of a political organization, and that its members here are probably rather socialistic than communistic in their ideas. While there appears to be no reason to believe that the Legation will be exposed to any danger as a result of further agitation here in this connection, developments will be carefully watched, and, if of sufficient importance, reported to the Department.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully,
Yours faithfully,

Caroline F. Lock

Director, E.I.C.,
George & Washington St. Building.

Enclosures:

1. Translation of extract of speech by Mrs. Michaelis
at CL-ETA' Meeting of November 18, 1936.
2. Translation of Resolution presented to the Legation
on November 19, 1936.

File No. 810.3-Quintuplicate.

Copy to E.I.C. Paris.

#101

Extract from POLITICALS of Mrs. Michaelis' speech

"I am not a Communist or Anarchist, nor a Conservative. Two months ago I wrote the preface to a book which is a protest against the Soviet's treatment of its political prisoners. At the same time I am a member of Kate Milne's Children's Home. I am an independent and I shall remain an independent as long as I live; and I will have the right to say what I think.

"I have been in America several times, once for eighteen months. Conditions there are quite different from our own. The American press, for example, is entirely in the control of four or five gigantic magnates owned by a few millionaires who stick together like sisters and brothers in a happy family. When one of them is attacked they all rally to his aid. A young man who had worked for the Associated Press for ten years published a book against the large trusts and against the abuses of the millionaires, especially against Morgan; he called the book COREAN. It was not noticed in a single paper throughout the United States; the publisher was compelled to withdraw it and the author was discharged from his position and could not procure a new position anywhere. That is press liberty in the United States.

"Nor is there any liberty of speech. If the Communists come to the United States and wish to lease a hall, such for example, as the large Hall of our Concert Palace (Koncert-palace), the reply is: 'It is very expensive!' Then they save up the money and apply again: 'Here you are, here is the

money!'

money! ' The police then say to the landlord: 'Don't let them have the hall.' He replies: 'Unfortunately, I have rented it to them.' Then five minutes before the meeting the Fire Brigade arrives and declares the hall to be a fire-trap, a hall in which speeches are made every evening the year around. And the Fire Brigade of the United States stands above the Law."

Mrs. Michaelis then proceeded to relate various alleged "American court scandals." He begin with the brilliant up the case of the labor leaders Hooney and Billings, who were condemned to death in California, as follows:

"During the war a bomb was thrown at a parade in San Francisco. Hooney and Billings who had not been in town were arrested, indicted by false witnesses and found guilty by a bribed jury. Wilson sent a secret commission to San Francisco who, without the knowledge of anyone, installed a diatograph in the judge's room and afterwards the judge was heard clearly say to his fellow conspirators: 'Guilty or not guilty, to hell with Hooney, we had to get rid of him.' Even Wilson did not accomplish more than to cause the death sentence to be reduced to life imprisonment.

"As regards the two Italians Sacco and Vanzetti, they had to be removed because they were in possession of disagreeable information regarding the notorious methods of torture of the police. They were, therefore, accused of being the perpetrators of a murder and robbery. Among the threatened and bribed witnesses was a woman who had witnessed the whole thing 'from around the corner' and a 14 year-old boy who had seen that the culprit was either an Italian, Russian, Greek, Mexican or Brazilian. Yet they were both

condemned

to death. It was of no avail that, while they sat in prison, a convicted murderer and robber confessed that he had shed this burden on his conscience. All that has been rendered in a participant of the death penalty. An enormous movement has now arisen in America both among Conservatives and Socialistic workers. Also we must join them. A cry for justice must be voiced all over the world! "According to the press, Mrs. Michaelis was greeted with overwhelming applause."

#104

DECLARATION

CLASH

Copenhagen, November 14, 1966.

To the Legation of the United States in Denmark

The Society CLASH held a public meeting last evening at which the assembly adopted the following resolution. The adoption was unanimous:

More than 600 Danish subjects assembled at meeting in ALLROD, Thursday, November 10th, 1966, under the auspices of CLASH, Copenhagen, aware of the international protests against the notorious judgments against the Italians SACCO and VANZETTI, against ROSEN and BILMING and against the scores of other innocent victims of the corruption in the judicial system of the United States of America which these cases have disclosed. We declare that the employment of the notorious "third degree" as a method of trial places the United States outside the circle of civilized nations and request the American Government as soon as possible to abolish this remnant of the Middle Ages!

We declare that until the SACCO-VANZETTI case is taken up again, until the Government of California has released ROSEN and BILMING, we shall not cease to stigmatize these judicial murders and to bring them to the knowledge of the Danish public in all details. The attitude of the American Government in these matters will thus be decisive for our

Continuation

#105

- 2 -

estimation of the United States as a country of liberty or
as a country of legal corruption.

On behalf of CLARKE

(Signed) LEUNBACH,

Physician,
Stockholmsgade 39,
Copenhagen.

He added that he himself admired much of her literary work, but that such intemperate statements as those referred to were evidence of an unbalanced mind and could, he was convinced, have little effect on the somewhat phlegmatic Danish public. With regard to the possibility of arousing any sympathy here for communistic movements, he stated that the recent election to the FOLKETING, in which the Communist Party received a decided set-back, was evidence of the fact that communism in Denmark was losing ground and was not, he believed, an element to be feared.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Gordon Paddock

Gordon Paddock,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

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JAN 10 1927

January 8, 1927.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LORING.

Special Agent West, of the Boston office, who was recently in Washington and conferred with you concerning the Sacco Vanzetti case, has sent me the attached memorandum which he requested me to transmit to you. It gives the citation of a case which he wanted to have called to your attention.

Very truly yours,

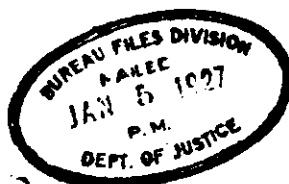
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Encl.

Director.

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DATE 6/21/82 BY SP-5/SLW



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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 15, 1927.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1AG/ac
ON 4/26/90
per STATE ltr. dtd. 2/22/90
(293,569)

Dear Mr. Hoover:

With reference to my letter of December 28th transmitting a report received from the American Legation at Copenhagen regarding the conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti, I am sending you herewith for your information a copy of a further despatch on this matter which has been received from Copenhagen, dated December 9, 1926.

Very truly yours,

A. K. L.

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,
Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.
311.6521Sal/367

JAN 22 1927

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61-126-735	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 17 1927 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div. Two	FILE

98

Despatch No. 59

Copenhagen, December 9, 1946.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A true copy of
the signed orig-
inal. GH

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 AG/100
ON 4/26/90
per STATE DEB. DIV. 2/22/90
(293,569)

APR 18 1972
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The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 54 of November 21st
last, concerning the Lacco-Vanzetti case, with which was
enclosed a translation of remarks made by Mrs. Maria
Michela at a public meeting held in Copenhagen on November
16th in connection with this case, I have the honor to report
that I have since been informed by Mr. Marion Letcher,
American Consul-General, that he has had occasion heretofore

to call the Department's attention to this lady's evidently vindictive attitude towards the United States. Mr. Letcher has shown me a copy of his confidential despatch No. 2230 of April 26, 1946, transmitting a translation of an article by Mrs. Maria Michaelis which had appeared in a local magazine, the TILBBLICH, in March last. It will be noted that the article in question, which is entitled "Law and Justice in Free America", is not only similar in tone but that certain passages are identical with remarks made by Mrs. Michaelis at the recent public meeting here.

I was not aware before that Mrs. Michaelis, as she is still known here, is actually the wife of Mr. Charles E. Stengelsen, who was at one time in the American Diplomatic Service. Her former husband, Mr. Stephen Michaelis, is reported to be one of the author's leading authors, and it is probable that Mrs. Michaelis, who is herself a writer of considerable local reputation, continues the use of her former name because of its association with her literary work.

At a recent meeting with Count Leventow, Director of the Foreign Office, I took occasion to express my regret that the publication of articles and statements against the United States of such a malicious nature as those of Mrs. Michaelis should be possible. He said that he was thoroughly informed of her antecedents and had known Mr. Stengelsen in London when the latter was attached to our Embassy there. He agreed with me that it is unfortunate that publicity should be given to such sensational and evidently false statements as those made by Mrs. Michaelis and that there seemed to be no way to prevent

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

HJW.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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January 26, 1927.

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DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-8BT/ma

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, AUG - 9
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

In re case of Commonwealth (Massachusetts) NICOLA SACCO and BARTOLEMEO VANZETTI.

JUL 12 1927

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Dear Sir,

In consonance with instructions of the undersigned, and in reply to memorandum from the Attorney-General, the following memorandum is respectfully submitted:

Sometime in December of 1919 a highway robbery was committed at Bridgewater, Massachusetts. On April 15, 1920, another highway robbery occurred at South Braintree, Massachusetts, a payroll of upwards of \$15,000 stolen, and two men murdered.

Early in May of 1920 the present defendants, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were arrested and charged with the murder in the latter case and the defendant Vanzetti charged with the robbery in the former case.

In or about August of 1920 the defendant Vanzetti was convicted of the Bridgewater crime and sentenced to the Massachusetts State Prison.

In or about June of 1921 both defendants were placed on trial in the Superior Criminal Court of Norfolk County, at Dedham, Massachusetts, for the South Braintree murder and in July of that year found guilty. Since that time a number of motions for a new trial have been heard and denied by the court, the last one having been presented in September of 1926 and the case has already been before the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, on exceptions, denied in May, 1926, and upon denial of the most recent motion for a new trial is to be argued before that court shortly.

Because of certain allegations made by counsel for the defendants and others interested in behalf of these men, it is desired to point out the following facts to refute charges.

made that the Department of Justice, or its representatives, instigated unlawfully and assisted in the prosecution of the two defendants, all of which is alleged in the memorandum hereinbefore referred to:

1. The charge is made that "the prosecution of Sacco and Vanzetti had its origin in the Department of Justice because of the radical tendencies it was alleged these men possessed."

In answer thereto permit the undersigned to state that the Department of Justice, or anyone of its representatives had absolutely nothing to do with the inception of charges against the defendants. The writer, who had charge or control of investigations made by the Boston office of the Bureau into radical activities, from November 1, 1919, down to sometime subsequent to the arrest, trial and conviction of these men, and at least felt fairly well acquainted with the situation in general in that district, never up to the time of the arrest of the defendants heard of or even knew that any two such persons existed, his first knowledge of the existence of such persons having been gained from newspaper notoriety attending the arrests.

Further, a careful search of the file indexes of the Boston office of the Bureau failed to show in those files any reference to either Sacco or Vanzetti up until sometime subsequent to their arrest, in fact, if the writer recalls correctly without reference to reports, the first mention of either name is sometime in August of 1920 when a request was received from Washington for a report upon the nationality of Vanzetti who had been already convicted and sentenced upon the Bridgewater charge.

By this it is not intended to make the bare statement that nowhere in the files of the Boston office appears the name of Sacco or Vanzetti, because during the war-time period, owing to stress of business, every name appearing in a report was not indexed, the indexing being confined merely to the subject of the investigation, and for that reason it is possible that in connection with some inquiry into radical activities the name of Sacco or Vanzetti may appear, but it can be stated with certainty that neither name appears in the indexes of the Boston office indicating that either was the exact subject of inquiry.

There was found amongst a lot of discarded papers in the Boston office, sometime after the arrest of the defendants, a card bearing either the name of Sacco or Vanzetti from which it was inferred that the person had been a subscriber to a radical publication, possibly the "Cronaca Sovversiva", an anarchist sheet published by one Luigi Galleani, an Italian anarchist, deported in 1919, but when or whence the card came there was

nothing thereon to indicate. If it came from the office of the Cronaca Sovversiva publication, it was probably one of the subscription list taken in a raid upon that plant by former Agent Feri F. Weiss, who had charge of such matters from 1917 to November 1, 1919. However, as stated, that card was found subsequent to the arrest of the defendants.

Again, permit the writer to point out that the prosecuting attorney in the case of the Commonwealth, Mr. Frederick Katzmann, then District Attorney for Norfolk County, Massachusetts, was not known to and was never met by the undersigned until November of 1920, although the arrests occurred the May previous and Vanzetti had been convicted of the Bridgewater charge in or about August of 1920 and was then serving a sentence at the State Prison.

2. The charge is made that "the Department of Justice aided in obtaining a conviction, although it should have had no connection with the trial if it was merely a trial of two murderers guilty of violating a state law."

An absolute denial of such charge is made. As pointed out in prior communications to the Bureau, that investigation of the case against the defendants was made by the Massachusetts State Detective force and by a local police chief, if the writer remembers correctly one Stewart by name, who averred in an affidavit presented to the Court that he never met the undersigned.

The State police organization is decidedly more qualified for investigation of murder cases than is the Federal bureau, that class of cases of violence being a goodly portion of their work, and the prosecuting attorney did not have to be informed of the so-called radical activities of the defendants prior to their arrest, had such been known to the Bureau, for the reason that those were brought into evidence entirely by counsel for the defence in order to combat a presumption of consciousness of guilt on the part of the defendants who had been found with loaded revolvers in their possession at the time of arrest and told falsehoods when questioned about their actions.

There was absolutely no aid, either of a legal or investigational nature, afforded the county prosecuting officer in the case, no witnesses were procured by the Bureau for him, nor were any witnesses or prospective jurors interrogated by the Bureau for him, nor did the writer ever confer with the trial justice or even inquire of the prosecuting officer relative to the progress of the case.

As stated hereinbefore, the first time the writer ever met the county attorney was about November of 1920. After the conviction of Vanzetti in August of 1920 and prior to the trial of both defendants on the murder charge, a so-called de-

fence committee, then headed by two anarchists, was inaugurated at Boston and a world-wide propaganda started. Following the Wall Street Bomb explosion, on September 16, 1920, it was deemed advisable by the New York City office of the Bureau sometime in November or December of 1920 to place an informant in the Dedham jail, wherein Sacco was confined, in the hope that something might be learned from the committee or persons visiting him that would throw some light upon the commission of that crime.

The services of such informant were utilized by the Federal Government solely in connection with the Wall Street explosion and such service was not requested by the District Attorney for the Commonwealth. This was the occasion for the visit of the undersigned to his office and was the first time he ever met that officer. Within a week or so, because of the conduct of the informant, it became necessary to remove him.

The writer did not attend the trial of these defendants and never saw either defendant until October or November of 1921, when motions for a new trial were being heard, at which time he was sent to Dedham by orders of the then Agent in Charge of the Boston office, and even then had no conversation with the District Attorney.

It is true that representatives of the Bureau office attended the trial, as did officers of the New York City police force, and of the Massachusetts state force, but the Federal officers present were there merely to observe and obtain information relating to any alien anarchists who might have come into the district for the trial, because of the intense agitation being conducted abroad at that time.

The charge is also made that "the Department now has in its files evidence which would shed considerable light on the methods employed to obtain a conviction of these two men, some of which evidence has since been admitted to have been perjured."

There is absolutely nothing in the files of the Boston office of the Bureau of evidentiary value that would shed any light upon the guilt or innocence of the defendants. The major portion of the files relate to investigations concerning the Wall Street bomb explosion and alleged radical activities of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee, and there is nothing therein showing "methods employed to obtain a conviction of these two men."

The vicious and unfounded allegation that some of the evidence has since been admitted to have been perjured should not remain to go unchallenged, for the reason that with all of the charges made in the case this is the first occasion when a charge of perjury or subornation of perjury has been made, and even the counsel for the defence, if the writer read correctly, with all of his criticism of alleged assistance given the District Attorney never made the charge that any of the evidence presented the court was tainted with perjury.

The undersigned desires to take the liberty of adverting to certain statements in the referred to memorandum which appear to be in error, in that the writer is not in possession of all of the facts or else did not properly analyze them:

The questioning of the defendants by the local police authorities at the time of their arrest, relative to their economic or political convictions, was a matter with which no representative of the Department of Justice had anything to do and was probably induced by the fact that they found in their possession literature of a so-called radical nature.

The writer speaks of evidence coming to light since the conviction, and in particular to affidavits filed by two former employees of the Department of Justice. Those affidavits it will be noted contain considerable opinion evidence, statements some of which are untrue, and they surely make no charge that perjured evidence was procured or even sought by any representative of the Department. Further, even though it be alleged that aid or assistance was given the State authorities in the case by representatives of this Bureau, which is not so, there could not be anything in the nature of a so-called "frame-up", in the ordinary acceptance of that term, without the introduction of perjured evidence, and such charge of a "frame-up" is merely the repetition of propaganda disseminated by the Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee, of Boston, which organization, it is reported, has already collected in the vicinity of \$300,000 for the defence of the defendants.

Again, the writer absolutely denies that any representative of the Department of Justice, or any other person so far as he is concerned, was sent to room at the home of Mrs. Sacco, nor was such a thing even contemplated. Further, the Director of the Bureau of Investigation, at Washington, was not in communication with the Boston office of the Bureau during the trial of these defendants.

For more detailed facts in connection with this case, the writer invites attention to the decision of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts returned May 12, 1926, in the case of Commonwealth v. Sacco, which may be found in 151 Northeastern Reporter 839.

Very truly yours,

William West
Special Agent.

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Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,
Boston, Mass.

January 28, 1927.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Attention: One.

In re: SACCO-VANZETTI CASE.

The case of Commonwealth of Massachusetts vs. NICOLA SACCO and BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI was argued before the full bench of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on January 27, 1927, by Attorney William G. Thompson, counsel for the accused.

Attached hereto you will find a report as carried in the Boston Post, in its issue of January 28, 1927, which treats of Mr. Thompson's argument.

Very truly yours,

John A. Dowd

JOHN A. DOWD,
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD/d.

Enclosure (Newspaper article)

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JAN 31 1927

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DATE 6/21/82 BY SP-10/1/82

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 29 1927	
Div. 1	Div. 2
Div. 3	Div. 4
Div. 5	Div. 6
Div. 7	Div. 8
Div. 9	Div. 10

Boston, Mass, Feb
Issue of Jan. 25-1927

"The judge seems to feel that a man
may be so high above the ordinary
citizen that it is disrespectful to question
his acts. Mr. Hughes did not think
so although he was at one time a judge
of the highest court in the land, for
he characterized the activities of one
Attorney General as tampering on the
rights of citizens who did not think
the Attorney General thought justice
was not afraid to say it. I
am not afraid
"By attributing to counsel abusive
epithets which he did not use, the judge
set up a man of straw and then entered
into an elaborate defense of the Ator-
ney General and the district attorney, but
not against the real accusation but
against accusations existing only in the
fears."

Caused Prejudices in Jury

"When the Government says you want to believe this or that, it begins to persecute. The Government had made a bargain with the district attorney and the district attorney was delivering the goods. He was asked what paper he subscribed to."

Says Judge Was Excited
His declaration that the granting of the motion would triumph over the de-

tory to the district attorney and to counsel for the defendants. He knows that can't be so. He himself admits now that it isn't so.

[illegible]

Should Not Withhold Testimony

the request of Judge Tucker to grant this second motion that occurred in the appeal proceeding yesterday.

Charges Abuse of Discretion

At this point he hinted a possible appeal to the United States Supreme Court to "iron the question out of process of law," in the 11th amendment. "The corresponding passage in the Bill of Rights," he said, "is clearly an abuse of judicial discretion in that it is clearly."

A fair trial under a judge who abuses his discretion," he added.

100

Building a Better

...with each other, only ...

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 23,
423 Federal Building, Boston, Mass.

January 29, 1927.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Attention Division No. 1.

In re: SACCO and VANZETTI matter.

Attached hereto you will find an item taken from the Boston, Mass. "Post", issue of January 29, 1927, which treats of the argument of Dudley P. Radney, Assistant District Attorney for Norfolk County, Mass. before the full bench of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the above entitled matter.

Yours very truly,

John A. Dowd

JOHN A. DOWD,
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD:JMC
Enc.

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DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-8 BJS/KC

RECORDED JUL 2 3 1927

61-126-737	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 31 1927 A. M.	
DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
Div. One	FILE
Div. Two	

61-126
Mr. Lohring
4/20/27
NL

MADEIROS DENOUNCED BY RANNEY

Says Judge Thayer
Right in Refusing
New Sacco Trial

DENIES ANY ABUSE OF
JUDICIAL DISCRETION

Defends Katzmenn
From the Charge
of Unfairness

Dudley P. Ranney, assistant district attorney for Norfolk county, vigorously defended the action of Judge Webster Thayer in refusing to grant a new trial to Sacco and Vanzetti as the so-called Madeiros confession, when he appeared before the Superior Judicial Court yesterday in the appeal proceedings.

He contended that Judge Thayer was not guilty of any abuse of judicial discretion, as charged by counsel for the defense, but was well within his rights in refusing to believe Madeiros, who is a self-confessed murderer and gunman. He charged Judge Thayer was justified in refusing to accept the charges of unfairness made by counsel for the defense against District Attorney Katzmenn, Attorney General Sargent and the Department of Justice.

Judge Thayer Upheld by Attorney Ranney

Continued From First Page

In order to find that Judge Thayer was guilty, said he, the Supreme court would have to find that no conscientious judge would have taken the view he did. The degree to which credence might be placed in statements of Madeiros and of witnesses supporting him, was a matter of the first importance, he stated, in deciding whether the defendants Sacco and Vanzetti were entitled to a new trial. It was the judge's duty to decide whether they were entitled to belief or not. Disbelief therefore could by no means constitute abuse of judicial discretion as the statements were all matters of dispute.

Madeiros, the principal witness, he described as a self-confessed murderer, twice convicted, who was guilty of the highest degree of moral turpitude known to the law. "What could that man think of the lesser penalties of perjury?" asked Mr. Ranney. "He gave a sworn affidavit and then later said certain things he said in the affidavit were falsehoods. Can Judge Thayer be blamed for failing to give credence to anything that man said?"

Refers to Morelli Gang

Regarding the possibility that the so-called Morelli gang perpetrated the murders and not Sacco and Vanzetti, Mr. Ranney pointed out that there was no evidence presented to Judge Thayer that the Morelli gang was ever in South Braintree, outside the statement of Madeiros. They were indicted for larceny of cases of shoes but the indictments specified that the larcenies were committed at Providence and not in South Braintree, where the murders occurred.

As to the charge made by counsel for the defense that the district attorney suppressed evidence, Mr. Ranney said that this was based on the fact that Mr. Katzmenn refrained from calling two witnesses to testify after he had examined them. He maintained that this was not suppression of evidence or misconduct, because the district attorney had a right to put on the stand only those witnesses whom he believed and to exclude others.

Regarding the suppression of evidence by Attorney-General Sargent, as alleged by counsel for the defense, Mr. Ranney declared that the evidence which the defense sought in the secret files of the Department of Justice was never refused to counsel but that counsel failed to get it through lack of tact. "We do not say this against Mr. Thompson," said Mr. Ranney. "We have only admiration for his burning desire to get the defense because of

The defense cannot complain if their own conduct prevented them from getting the information they sought in the government secret files.

No Evidence From Spies

In discussing the employment of spies to secure evidence against Sacco, Mr. Ranney said that it was simply co-operation between the district attorney and the Department of Justice and was justified by custom. No evidence was secured, he said, so that no harm had been done to Sacco.

The most serious charge of all he declared was the charge that the district attorney secured the conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti because they were anarchists and radicals and not because they were guilty of murder. This charge is based on the accusation that the district attorney failed to use evidence which, if used, would acquit the defendants, and that he conducted a cross examination that was unfair.

Mr. Ranney pointed out that the 8th witness for the defense had been called to the stand before any mention of radicalism at all was made. It was injected into the case, he stated, by the defense who knew that it would be tested in cross examination. If the effect was prejudicial to the defense he contended that the defense was to blame for bringing it in. They could not blame the government.

If 85 witnesses had testified before any mention of radicalism was made in this case, how can they say that it was injected into the case as the result of a conspiracy between the district attorney and the Department of Justice to convict these men as radicals when they could not convict them as murderers?" asked Mr. Ranney. "The accusation of misconduct on the part of the district attorney has failed for lack of evidence. We are not concerned here with arguments not based on facts."

Thompson Scores Katzmenn

Attorney William G. Thompson, counsel for Sacco and Vanzetti, closed the arguments by calling the attention of the court to the fact that District Attorney Katzmenn failed to make any reply to the charges against him. "Your honors have not forgotten," said he, "what you said when District Attorney Pelletier did not deny the charges brought against him. Here is a man accused of using his office to allow men to be convicted of murder when they are not guilty of murder. If you think that is legitimate co-operation on the part of the district attorney and the Department of Justice, to send these defendants to the electric chair because they could not send them out of

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DATE 6/29/02 BY SP8BJD/MC

61-126-737

Boston Mass. Post

#77

12
61-126

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Boston, Mass.

February 7, 1927.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C. Attention No. 5.

Dear sir,

In compliance with request of Mr. Schilder, of the Bureau, to Special Agent W. J. West, of this office, during the recent visit of Mr. West to Washington, there is inclosed herewith for the completion of the Bureau's files one copy of the report of Mr. West for September 9, 1919, entitled: "Augustus Rossi, 304 Adams street, Newton, Mass., and 'Cronaca Sovversiva', Anarchist matter."

Very truly yours,

John A. Dowd
John A. Dowd,
Special Agent in Charge.

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RECORDED

JUL 13 1927

61-126-737X
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 9 1927 A.M.
Dis. Off.
Dis. Rec.
W. B. O. M.

REPORT MADE BY: <u>William J. Cant.</u>	PLACE WHERE MADE: <u>Boston, Mass.</u>	DATE WHEN MADE: <u>Sept. 2, 1912.</u>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <u>Sept. 2, '12.</u>
TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION: <u>In re: Anarchist <u>Rosai</u>, 504 Adams St., Newton, Mass.; and <u>Augusta</u> <u>Rosai</u>: (Anarchistic Matter)</u>			
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACE WHERE INTERVIEWED, ETC.: <u>At West Newton, Mass.:</u>			

Pursuant to instructions of Division Superintendent Keller, the writer on this date accompanied Special Agent Weiss to Police Headquarters, West Newton, Mass., where it was reported a large lot of anarchistic matter had been secured on this date by the Newton Police Department.

The above entitled matter is also being reported by Special Agent Weiss under this date and title of "Bomb Explosions at Boston, Washington, D. C., and Cleveland, Ohio."

Upon arrival at Police Headquarters, West Newton, Mass., Chief of Police Mitchell reported that his officers had this date received from a barn on the estate recently occupied by one Augusta Rosai, 504 Adams street, Newton, a grocery box full of typewritten cards which purported to be a subscription list of some Italian publication. It was the opinion of both Agents that these cards were the subscription list of the Italian anarchistic publication "Cronaca Sovversiva", formerly edited by Luigi Galleani, recently deported from this port by the U. S. Immigration Service as an anarchist. The home of Augusta Rosai in Newton has been understood to be a meeting place of Italian radicals. This estate was recently vacated by Rosai, and in remodeling the barn the cards were found concealed between the frames of the building.

The cards were brought to Bureau office by Agents and are being sorted by states, cities and towns, and when this is completed a list will be made and submitted to the Bureau and to the Bureau offices in the states in which any of the subscribers

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DATE 6/9/82 BY SP-8 BTJ

Inventory Form No. 2

H-80

In re: James Earl Ray

Date for Sept. 2, '19.

are located.

Agent left official station, Boston, Mass., via Boston & Albany R. R., at 4:50 P. M., and returned to official station via B. & A. R. R. at 7:30 P. M.

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61-126-738, 739, 740, 741, 742

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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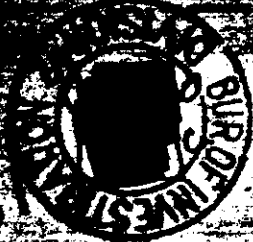
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CONFIDENTIAL

(S) OF

CLASS
S-4-75

John, Inc.



Director

Reference Sacco Vanzetti case Massachusetts Supreme Court in consultation this week. Their decision this case may come down, not certain however.

Understand William E. Castle, Assistant Secretary State, formerly in charge Western European affairs desires advance information in this regard so that foreign consul and foreign embassy can be given benefit. It advisable notify Castle. Special delivery letter follows. Respectfully suggest every precaution be taken prevent leak.

Class. & Ext. by SL-8017/mc
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 5/3/92
5/3/92

Rec'd. 2:50

[Redacted] c (B)

To Director 2:55

John A.
[Redacted] c (B)

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[Redacted signature]

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BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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RECORDED
744

March 2, 1927.

Mr. Alexander C. Kirk,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF CL
DATE 2/27/82

Dear Mr. Kirk:

The Bureau is in receipt of the following telegram from the Agent in Charge of its Boston office:

"Reference Sacco Vanzetti case Massachusetts Supreme Court in consultation this week. Their decision this case may come down not certain however. Understand William E. Castle, Assistant Secretary State, formerly in charge Western European affairs desires advance information in this regard so that foreign consul and foreign embassy can be given benefit. If advisable notify Castle. Special delivery letter follows. Respectfully suggest every precaution be taken prevent leak."

[REDACTED]

Very truly yours,

Director.

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Class. & Ext. By SP-2 BTJ/mk
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 6/29/92
6/29/92

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

#67

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6

61-126-745

March 2, 1927.

RECORDED

MAR 4 1927

Mr. Alexander C. Kirk,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Referring further to the SACCO
VANHETZ case, I am transmitting.

attached hereto, copy of a letter
relative thereto from the Bureau's
office at Boston, Mass. dated Feb. 28th.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 20257.

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DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-805/UC



Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Box 239, Boston, Mass.

February 28, 1927.

MAR 4 1927

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: SACCO-VANZETTI CASE
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Sir:

J. R. Benton, formerly Attorney General for the State of Massachusetts, called at this office this morning stating that he, while in office, was conferred with by William R. Castle, in charge of Western European affairs for the American Department of State.

At that time it was Mr. Castle's desire to receive, in advance, possible information concerning the decision arrived at by the Supreme Court in the above entitled matter, because he wished, if possible, to advise Foreign Consulates and Embassies sufficiently in advance of the Court's decision becoming public so that the Consulates and Embassies could make such preparations as might be necessary.

Mr. Benton advised me today that the Massachusetts Supreme Court met in consultation this morning and will possibly continue in consultation during the entire week and that this body may hand down the decision in the Sacco-Vanzetti case although it is not certain it will do so.

Mr. Benton is no longer in office and made it clear that he did not wish his name connected with the case in any way and that accounts for my failure to make known to you, in my telegram of this morning, the medium through which I learned of Mr. Castle's interest.

It is my understanding that William R. Castle is now an Assistant Secretary of State and I wish to advise that it is my impression, gathered from the discreet speech and general attitude of Mr. Benton, that possibly a decision in this matter will be handed down in the very near future. In this regard, however, my opinion is based only upon a reading, so to speak, of his general bearing.

Very truly yours,

JOHN A. DOWD,
Special Agent in Charge.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-8 DTS/mk
ON 6/14/82

JAD:MFD
Att. #1

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP OF 3/1/27
JAD:mk

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64

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,
423 Federal Building, Boston, Mass.

March 8, 1927.

61-126

2

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.



Dear Sir:

Attention Division No. 1.

In re: SACCO and VANZETTI Matter

In relation to the above I wish to refer you to the March, 1927, issue of the Atlantic Monthly, in which issue there appears on pages 409-432 an article entitled, "The Case of Sacco and Vanzetti", by Felix Frankfurter, who on page 406 is referred to as a professor of administrative law at the University of Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass. and one who for four years was Assistant U. S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York.

In connection with this article, which is referred to as the first effort to give the public a complete and accurate resume of the facts of the case, you will observe on pages 418 and 423 of this article comment concerning the Bureau of Investigation of the U. S. Department of Justice.

I believe that this article will prove of considerable interest to you, and I want to add that the article has been made the subject of adverse comment by several attorneys of the Massachusetts bar.

Yours very truly,

John A. Dowd

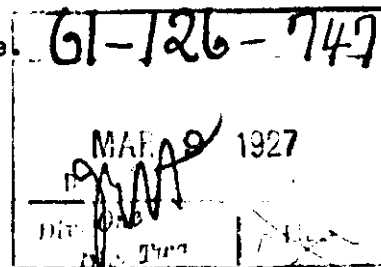
JAD:JMC

JOHN A. DOWD,
Special Agent in Charge.

61-126-747

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MAR 10 1927



POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLE

63 RECEIVED AT
RYANS BUILDING
345 NEW YORK AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
TELEPHONE, MAIN 688

Signal after the number of words—
"Blue" indicates (Day Letter) "N. L."
(Night Letter) or "Nite" (Night
Telegram)

TELEGRAMS
TO ALL
AMERICA



CABLEGRAMS
TO ALL
THE WORLD

DELIVERY AND

STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

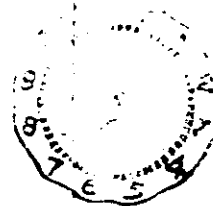
DIRECTOR BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPT OF JUSTICE.

WASHN DC. 491

OUR BOSTON MASS OFFICE ADVISES NINTH WORD READS LAMEISSENT
OURS DATED APRIL 5TH CONTAINING 25/22 COLLECT GOVT SIGNATURE
ONE BOND.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH CO

APRIL 5TH-27



APR 5 1917

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CONCLUSIONS

DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

POTTERBUCKLE AGENTS WILL FORWARD STATE OF REPORT WITH AGEN TO BUREAU

Rec'd 4
7:00 P.M.
1968

[illegible]

10-10-68

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#60

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Box 259, Boston, Mass.

April 12, 1927.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: SACCO & VANZETTI CASE

Dear Sir:

Adverting to news items appearing in the press of this city recently concerning the above named matter, permit me to send you enclosed herewith items taken from the Boston Sunday Post for April 10th, 1927, Boston Evening American and Boston Post for April 11th, 1927, and Boston Advertiser for April 12th, 1927, all of which treat of recent developments and contemplated procedure by sympathizers of the above named individuals.

Very truly yours,

John A. Bowd

JOHN A. BOWD
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD:MED

1 Encl.
for
Mr. S. E.
Mason
or
mail

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61-126

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APR 14 1927

61-126-749	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 13 1927 A. M.	
DEPT. OF JUSTICE	FILE

10:50
62-100-770

RECORDED

APR 19 1927

APR 18, 1927.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EMMERS.

I am transmitting, attached hereto,
copy of telegram received from the Bureau's
Boston Office, dated April 14, 1927, in
reference to the SAAGO VANKETTI case.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 61204.

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DATE 6/24/82 BY SP-8/BJH

BUREAU FILES DIVISION
MAILED
APR 18 1927
P.M.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

COMMUNIST PARTY, U.S.A.

INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ADVISOR: [REDACTED]

CLASSIFICATION: [REDACTED]

DATE: 5-4-72

Boston, Mass.

Director

Reference Marco Vansetti. Boston Globe April 14th carries small item column 3, page 10, indicating Defense Committee has wired Senator David I. Walsh asking him to check report that Department of Justice, Washington, has a vault full of letters from citizens protesting against Department's failure to open its files in the hope of clearing up the case.

One Dowd

Rec'd, 2:25

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To Director 2:40

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Reason: FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 5/3/92
5/3/02

61-126



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61-126-750
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Dir. Two FILE

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